

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 888
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1276

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS NEA/IAI FOR CONGEN NEWLIN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BROR, PDEV, IS, JO
SUBJ: GOI MINISTER SAY SHILO WILL BE A SETTLEMENT

REF: TEL AVIV 5643

1. YTZHAK MODA'I, GOI MINISTER OF ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
TOLD VOA CORRESPONDENT CHARLIE WEISS MAY 3 THAT SHILO WILL
BECOME A SETTLEMENT. MODA'K MET THE CORRESPONDENT BY CHANCE
AT SHILO WHILE THE LATTER WAS VISITING SEVERAL OF THE NEW
SETTLEMENTS IN THE AREA. WHEN SAKED WHY HE WAS VISITING THE
SETTLEMENT, MODA'I REPLIED HE HAD COME BECAUSE THE SETTLERS
NEEDED ELECTRICITY.

2. A SETTLER AT SHILO TOLD WEISS THAT THERE WERE NOW EIGHT
FAMILIES, 25 YESHIVA STUDENTS AND SIX SINGLES AT SHILO. PRE-
FABE AND WORK ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE WERE BEING FINANCED
BY GUSH EMUNIM, THE SETTLER SAID. RUNNING COSTS WERE BEING
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BORNE COMMUNALLY BY THE SETTLERS. NO ARCHEOLOGY WAS TAKING
PLACE. WEISS SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WERE RERHAPS
SIX ADDITIONAL PRE-FABS SINCE HIS LAST VISIT IN
FEBRUARY. LOCALS FROM THE NEARBY ARABIC VILLAGE OF TURMUS
"AYYA TOLD DPO MAY 3 THAT TWO ADDITIONAL PRE-FABE
HAD BEEN MOVED IN WITHIN THE PAST WEEK. NEW TELEPHONE
LINES ARE ALSO BEING INSTALLED BOTH FOR THE ARABIC

VILLAGE AND THE SETTLEMENT, THE ARABS SAID.
ACCORDING TO WEISS THERE WERE NO PIECES OF HEAVY
EQUIPMENT ON THE SITE MAY3. LAST WEEK, HAARETZ REPORTED
BULLDOZERS WERE WORKING ON THE SETTLEMENT'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

3. AT HARIS, WEISS WAS NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE
SETTLEMENT. A GUARD AT THE ENTRANCE TOLD HIM ENTRANCE
WAS DENIED TO ALL BUT PERSONS ON A SPECIFIC LIST SINCE
THE INCIDENT THE PREVIOUS MONTH WHEN "A SPY" WAS
ALLOWED IN. WEISS DID OBSERVE EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT
PREPARING THE SITE ADJACENT TO THE ENCLOSED CAMP.

4. AT NABI SALIH, WEISS WAS ALLOWED IN, BUT SETTLERS
TOLD HIM THAT WAS A MISTAKE WHEN THEY FOUND OUT HE
WAS A JOURNALIST. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS ALLOWED TO
STAY. SETTLERS TOLD HIM THIRTEEN FAMILIES WERE NOW
LIVING AT NABIL SALIH. ON A NEARBY HILL, BULLDOZERS
WERE PREPARING HOUSING SITES, WEISS SAID. HIS
COMPANION, ALSO A JOURNALIST, OBSERVED A PLAN FOR 70
HOUSING UNITS DRAWN UP BY THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING.

5. COMMENT: AS EMBASSY TEL AVIV HAS REPORTED IN REFTTEL,
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS IS NOW DECIDED BY THE
MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR SECURITY AFFAIRS HEADED BY
BEGIN. THEREFORE, MODA'I STATEMENTS DO NOT NECESSARILY
REFLECT A GOI DECISION TO LEGITIMIZE SHILO. ON THE
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OTHER HAND, VISITS TO THE SETTLEMENT BY GOI MINISTERS
AND APPARENT MATERIAL SUPPORT, SUCH AS POWER AND TELE-
PHONES, MIGHT POSSIBLY BE INTERPRETED BY
GUSH EMUNIM AS TACIT GOI SUPPORT FOR THEIR ILLEGAL
SETTLEMENT.
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